GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
DISPARITIES IN ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF UNIVERSITIES
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing disparities in academic standards of various universities in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove or reduce these disparities;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Knowledge Commission;

(d) if so, the salient features and objectives thereof; and

(e) the manner by which such Commission would help in reducing disparities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) & (b): The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) assesses and accredits institutions of higher learning, including universities in terms of their quality of higher education and grades them on a 9 point scale. Quality reports highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of institutions are used to improve them.

(c) to (e): The Planning Commission has notified a National Knowledge Commission. The major Terms of Reference of the Commission have been notified to:

i) Build excellence in the educational system to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive advantage in fields of knowledge.
(ii) Promote creation of knowledge in S&T laboratories.

(iii) Improve the management of institutions engaged in intellectual property rights.

(iv) Promote knowledge applications in agriculture and industry.

(v) Promote the use of knowledge capabilities in making Government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit.

The Knowledge Commission will address its Terms of Reference through Working Groups to be constituted by various Ministries of the Govt. of India.